

NOTES ON CLINICAL SIDE-ROOM METHODS. Prepared by the Board of Medical Studies, University of Edinburgh. (Pp. 79. 7s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

THIS publication has been prepared by the Board of Medical Studies of the University of Edinburgh and presents those side-room tests which still fall into the province of the practising doctor and are a logical extension of the clinical investigation of the patient. The tests described are those with which a student for the final examination is expected to be familiar. Together with other examining bodies, the Edinburgh Board of Medical Studies has noted that there is an "unsatisfactory performance of students in this direction of the examination."

Most books dealing with clinical side-room methods describe traditional tests, many of which are no longer currently used. This small book aims to fill a gap by providing the student with up-to-date information on this subject. This aim has been fully achieved. The techniques are clearly presented and well chosen. They include, which few other books of this type do, the convenient stick and tablet tests for the presence of abnormal chemical substances in urine.

The book can be confidently recommended not only to students in those medical schools which include the teaching of clinical side-room methods in their curriculum, but also to all practising doctors. The book is conveniently sized and slips easily into the pocket. From the point of view of its main user—the medical student—this book is commendably cheap. The only small criticism which one could level at this book is its paper cover. Such a cover on a bench book, which gets considerable wear, is a doubtful economy. M. G. N.

AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY. By J. H. Green, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.(Cantab.), Ph.D.(Lond.). (Pp. 153; figs. 172; paper 21s; boards 35s.) London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

THIS book was written to serve as an introduction to physiology for medical and dental students. The aim was to present the basic concepts of human physiology unobscured by controversy. The outcome has been successful. Dr. Green is to be congratulated for the clear and crisp presentation and the publishers for the attractive layout.

The main fields of physiology are described in eighteen chapters of less than ten pages each. Each chapter is well written and gives an up-to-date summary of the present state of knowledge. The omission of historical and controversial issues aids clarity but does not make for exciting reading. It should be stressed, however, that the book is much more than a pocket aid for pre-examination cramming. References to additional reading are given at the end of each chapter.

Wherever possible, the apparatus commonly used in practical classes in physiology is described to integrate practical experiments with theory. There is a very useful set of appendices giving the values of certain constants, atomic weights, common logarithms, etc.

As a student I never liked introductory or summary texts since they so frequently made dull reading. Dr. Green's book is one of the best of this kind that I have seen. At a guinea, it is good value. I. C. R.

GARROD'S INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM. Reprinted with a Supplement by H. Harris, M.A., M.D. Oxford Monographs on Medical Genetics. (Pp. xi + 207. 42s) London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

THIS is the first of a new series of monographs on medical genetics prepared under the general editorship of Professor J. A. Fraser Roberts. Later handbooks will cover the genetics relevant to such specialisms as neurology, mental disorders, gastro-intestinal disorders and dermatology. With the rapid expansion of medical genetics in recent years they will be most welcome, especially since they will be addressed primarily to the clinician.

Garrod's famous Croonian lectures were delivered in 1908 and published in the *Lancet* of July, 1908. They were revised and published in book form in 1909. In these lectures he